

**STATEMENT FROM THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & SUPPORT SERVICES
TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012**

Chairman Austin, Vice-Chairman Reilly and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to be with you today to present the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) budget for 2013.

There are few entities in municipal government that touch as many people's lives as deeply and as personally as DFSS. Hundreds of thousands of Chicago's residents, from newborns to seniors, benefit from our services every year.

We help to provide early learning opportunities for Chicago's children; summer jobs and after-school engagement for our youth; transitional housing and supportive services for homeless families; guidance and aid to our proud veterans; support and a safe haven for victims of domestic violence; job training and placement help for the unemployed; care and life-enrichment opportunities for our seniors; and a second chance to ex-offenders.

In 2013, DFSS will invest \$298 million to provide social services to Chicagoans of all ages, especially those most in need. This 2013 budget amount represents a 15% reduction from our 2012 budget, due mainly to reductions in federal and state grant funding and the conclusion of federal stimulus programs. This means that, in order to avoid cutting vital services, we have had to shift our focus to seeking new sources of funding and thinking outside of the box to find untried ways to maintain and improve our services.

In 2013, DFSS will continue to support a network of more than 300 community-based delegate agencies providing services that promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families, and strengthen neighborhoods across Chicago.

I am pleased to note that DFSS will receive a 7% increase in support through the Corporate fund in 2013, reflecting Mayor Emanuel's strong commitment to creating greater opportunities for Chicago's youth.

FINDING MORE EFFICIENT WAYS TO MEET GROWING HUMAN NEEDS

In recent years, DFSS has sustained reductions in key grants including the Community Development Block Grant, the Community Service Block Grant and the Illinois Child Care

Program. DFSS has also worked hard to prevent further losses and restore funding in other grants, including the state's Emergency and Transitional Housing Program. The loss of funding from Springfield and Washington has served not only as a "wake-up call" for DFSS, but more importantly as a "call to action" to make our programs more efficient and sustainable.

These funding cuts and the threat of future cuts served as the impetus for our decision to contract out our Human Services Mobile Outreach program this year. DFSS sought proposals for the delivery of services including shelter placement and transport, well-being checks and emergency food box delivery. By transitioning our Human Services Mobile Outreach program to Catholic Charities, we will cut our operating costs by half and redirect savings to other critical programs designed to assist vulnerable Chicagoans, including homeless youth and seniors.

Perhaps most importantly, we will be working closely with our community-based providers to discuss new strategies for minimizing the impact of reduced funding resources. In the face of grant budget cuts, our partners have consistently stepped up to work with us to close program gaps that would have resulted in many fewer residents being served. I have been heartened by the organizations who have reached out to me to express their concern for their clients and their eagerness to help us avoid reductions in service by thinking creatively about new ways of delivering those services. With their support, I am hopeful that we can continue to provide our residents with the levels of assistance they need and deserve.

DEVELOPING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We cannot hope for a safe and prosperous future for Chicago unless we turn our attention to the well-being, safety and healthy development of our children and youth. Mayor Emanuel knows that we need to do everything we can to create bright futures for young Chicagoans, and DFSS is proud to play a role in this effort.

DFSS has played a key role on the Mayor's Early Learning Executive Council to overhaul the application and allocation process for providers of early childhood education programs, seeking to expand the pool of applicants that can deliver high quality early learning and stimulate innovation in early childhood program delivery. DFSS and the Chicago Public Schools will work closely together to ensure that funding through each agency is strategically allocated across the city in a way that best serves the most children, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. As part of this effort, DFSS will allocate more than \$125 million in federal Head Start and Early Head Start grant funding to serve nearly 18,000 children. Additionally, Mayor Emanuel has pledged \$30 million over three years, with \$4.75 million available in 2013, to create another 5,000 early childhood slots for children from high need areas of the City.

To keep our youth learning and thriving in safe environments, DFSS will invest nearly \$12 million in out-of-school-time programs and employment opportunities for our youth, and will continue to play a lead role in coordinating the One Summer Chicago initiative with other City and County departments and sister agencies, to bring summer jobs and learning and recreational opportunities to our youth.

Mayor Emanuel recently announced a \$4 million expansion of after-school and summer program opportunities that will keep more than 13,000 of our youth out of harm's way and put them on the road to rewarding lives and careers. Included in the \$4 million expansion is a \$1.5 million commitment for a second year of the One Summer PLUS program, which combines summer employment with social-emotional learning instruction for youth at high risk of violence involvement. DFSS will seek supplemental support from philanthropic partners to offer this program to 1,000 youth in 2013.

In addition to summer programs, DFSS will take the lead on a number of new youth violence prevention strategies in 2013. The new programs will be aimed at serving juveniles on probation and those re-entering communities from juvenile detention facilities. DFSS is partnering with the Cook County Office of Juvenile Probation and the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to pilot programs to reduce recidivism among this population of Chicago's youth at highest risk of future violence involvement.

Mayor Emanuel also dedicated \$2 million to expand assistance for homeless youth in 2013. With this investment, DFSS will support the operation of three regional support centers for homeless youth and an additional 100 year-round overnight youth shelter beds. We anticipate that these new investments will serve an additional 1,400 homeless youth in our city annually, including runaway, LGBTQ, and pregnant and parenting youth.

We are grateful to the Mayor for his strong commitment to children and youth. These are some of the most important investments we can make. They are investments in the future of the children and youth of Chicago, and in the city's future.

In closing, as Chicago residents continue to cope with the economic downturn, we remain dedicated to doing more with less and offering all the help our resources allow. We will continue to identify areas where we can achieve cost-savings as well as administrative and programmatic efficiencies. We would not be able to deliver these necessary services without the support that City Council members have provided.

When I was appointed commissioner 17 months ago, I set out to meet with each Council member to learn about the unique needs of your communities and offer ways our department can support you. These meetings have provided us with new ideas and helped us align our programs to the needs of your constituents. I look forward to meeting with each and every one of you to discuss how we can work together to make Chicago the best place to live, work and raise a family.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed about our programs and about special opportunities and seasonal services to share with your constituents, and we appreciate being part of your community events and town hall meetings.

We thank you for being our partners in extending a helping hand and encouraging the people of Chicago to strengthen each other and our city during these tough times.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn J. Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Evelyn J. Diaz
Commissioner

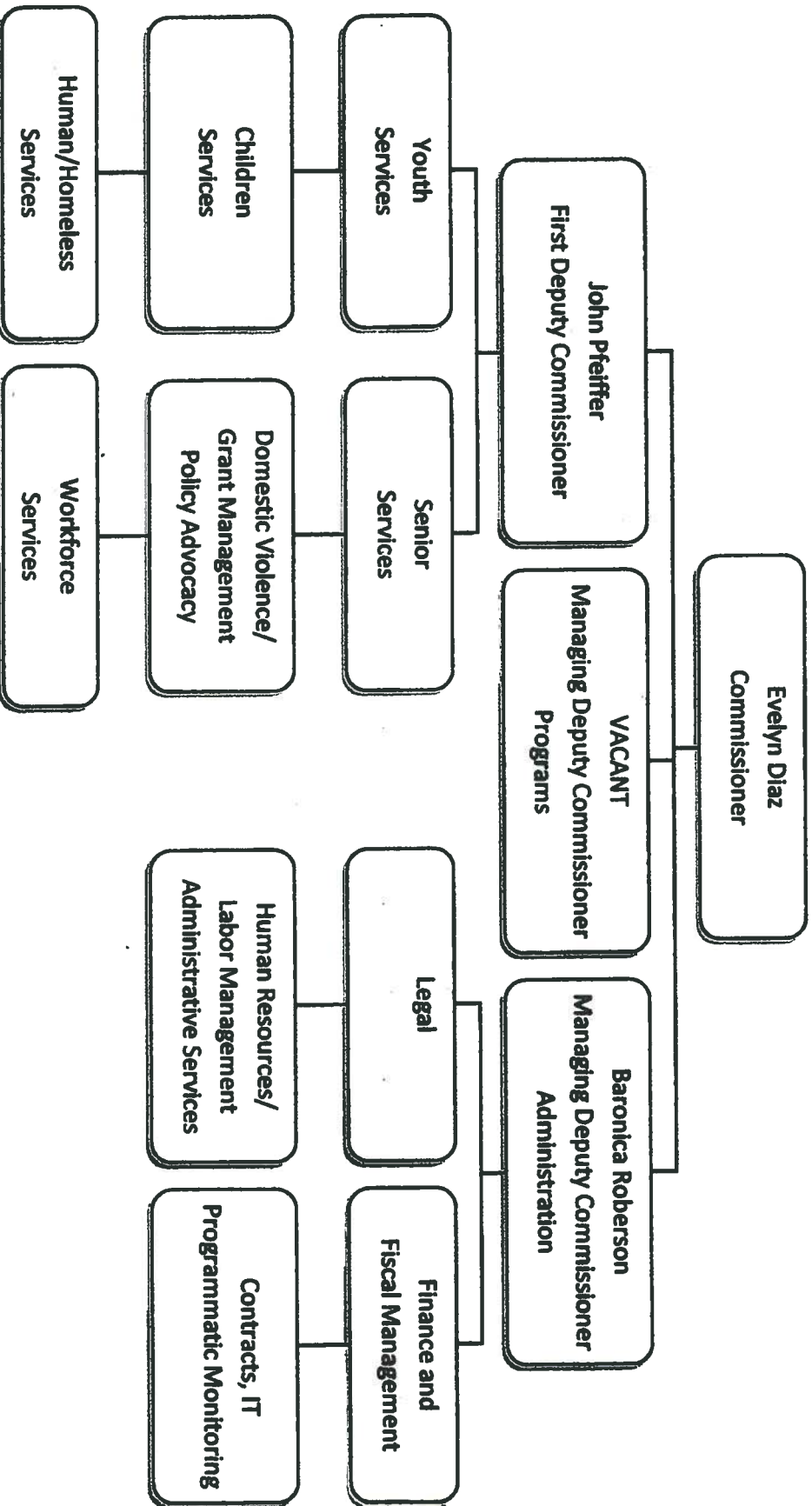
2013 Budget Hearing

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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF

family & support services





Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Program and Service Highlights

The Chicago Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS) is dedicated to supporting a continuum of coordinated services to enhance the lives of Chicago residents, particularly those most in need, from birth through the senior years. The department works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families and strengthen neighborhoods by providing direct assistance and administering resources to a network of community-based organizations, social service providers and institutions. With a budget of \$345 million in 2012, DFSS and its network of more than 300 delegate agency partners assist more than 300,000 Chicagoans each year.

Children's Services

- The **Early Head Start** program provides educational and early childhood development activities that promote school readiness for more than 900 birth to three-year-old children from low-income families. The program offers children free health services and nutritious meals, and also provides parent education and training.
- The **Head Start** program provides educational and early childhood development activities that promote school-readiness for more than 16,800 three- to five-year-old children from low-income families. The program offers children free health services and nutritious meals, and also provides parent education and training.
- The **Child Care Assistance Program** provides 10,000 children from low-income families with access to quality, affordable child care that allows parents to continue to work or participate in approved training programs, and contributes to the healthy, emotional and social development of the child.
- DFSS sponsors and manages the administration of Chicago's **Summer Nutrition Program** for children and youth at 300 locations across the city. The program provides residents, 18 years and younger, with approximately 500,000 free, nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks at community-based sites across the city including Chicago Park District and Chicago Housing Authority sites and faith-based facilities.

Youth Services

- Through the **One Summer Chicago** initiative, DFSS helped coordinate over 184,000 summer opportunities for youth in 2012 along with 9 county and sister agencies. Of those opportunities, 17,000 were summer jobs opportunities. DFSS contributed 6,000 of those opportunities.
- DFSS coordinated and managed the **One Summer PLUS** initiative that focused on high-risk youth from 13 Chicago public high schools. The program provided 700 youth with enhanced summer jobs or summer jobs with social-emotional learning, and is part of an evaluation being conducted by the University of Chicago Crime Lab.
- In 2012, DFSS offered 16,800 year-round **out-of-school time, mentoring and counseling opportunities** for young people ages 6-18. Programs provide children and youth with structured, age-appropriate activities that address social, emotional, and academic needs.

Human Services

- In an effort to improve our **service delivery to U.S. military veterans**, DFSS replaced our Veterans Resource Office at 10 S. Kedzie in 2012 with two new specialized service offices at other locations. The Veterans Resource Office/North Area, at 4740 N. Sheridan Road, specializes in assisting veterans with securing employment while the Veterans Resource Office/Central West, at 2102 W. Ogden Avenue, located across the street from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, assists veterans with health-related issues.
- Through DFSS' six **Community Service Centers**, the department projects it will have assisted approximately 50,000 households by the end of 2012. These centers offer city residents access to a wide range of resources including shelter, food and clothing, domestic violence assistance, and job training and placement. Clients can also get information about rental, utility and other financial assistance programs.
- During periods of extreme weather, DFSS' six Community Service Centers serve as the City's main **warming and cooling centers** for residents seeking relief from the temperatures and elements.
- DFSS continues to make fresh, nutritious foods available to residents in low-income areas. DFSS' **LINK Up Illinois/Farmers Markets** will continue to provide LINK access to 10 City-sponsored Farmers Markets. Additionally, in 2012, DFSS provided approximately 60 homeless shelter programs with fresh fruit and vegetables on a bi-weekly basis.

Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

- In 2012 DFSS will administer services for approximately **7,500 domestic violence victims** and their children through 41 community-based programs which provide numerous services including case management and linkage to ancillary services; court advocacy, legal representation; and individual and group counseling.
- DFSS will continue to connect victims of domestic violence with services, like shelter, counseling and job placement/training assistance, through the **Domestic Violence Help Line**. The Help Line will field approximately 30,000 calls in 2012.

Homeless Services

- DFSS administers and manages programs for homeless individuals and families, including more than **3,000 beds of overnight shelter and interim housing**. Additionally, DFSS supports an array of services for homeless individuals and families including homelessness prevention, outreach and engagement, community-based case management, permanent supportive housing, and specialized services such as employment training and placement, assistance with public benefits applications and substance use treatment.
- DFSS manages 1,400 units of HUD-funded **Shelter Plus Care**. Shelter Plus Care is a rental housing subsidy for homeless persons with disabilities such as HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, or mental illness. Under Shelter Plus Care, HUD pays for housing subsidies for eligible clients and local sponsor agencies provide a matching level of care for the program participants.
- In 2012, DFSS redirected funds to provide help to close the gap in critical need areas by funding additional shelter beds for homeless youth and a new day program for chronically homeless adults.
- In 2011 and 2012, DFSS and the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness helped lead an intensive community planning effort to develop an updated set of strategies to prevent and end homelessness in Chicago. "**Plan 2.0**," which was formally released by Mayor Emanuel and key stakeholders at a press conference on August 23, 2012, is a broad-ranging, seven-year action plan that reaffirms and builds on the core tenets of Chicago's original 2003 Plan to End Homelessness - prevention, housing first, and wraparound services - and identifies new strategies to improve access and opportunity for those most in need.
- DFSS's **Human Services Mobile Outreach** crews responded to approximately 37,000 requests for shelter placement and transportation, well-being checks, emergency food assistance and assistance to victims of fire and natural disasters. In October 2012, DFSS transferred the delivery of these outreach services to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.
- The **Homeless Outreach and Prevention** team encounters approximately 7,000 homeless individuals per year. Encounters include crisis counseling, assessment for homeless programs and transportation to homeless shelters.

Workforce Development Services

- DFSS will continue to provide **job training and placement services to high-need populations** including formerly incarcerated individuals, homeless individuals and persons with limited English proficiency. Through employment preparation services, transitional jobs programs and skill training in high demand industries, individuals gain valuable work experience and skills needed for the workplace or move on to more advanced education and training programs.

Senior Services/Area Agency on Aging

- A resource for more than 150,000 residents annually, **Information & Advocacy (I&A)** ensures seniors and their advocates understand all their options regarding benefits, services and programs and assists individuals through the application process. I&A is available by calling **(312) 744-4016**, or visiting Room 100 at City Hall or DFSS Regional Senior Centers.
- The **Golden Diners Program**, administered by DFSS each weekday, provides Chicago's seniors (over 60 years of age) with hot, nutritious lunches in a communal setting at nearly 60 sites throughout Chicago. Each year, DFSS provides approximately 750,000 meals to over 20,000 older adults through this program.
- DFSS' **Home Delivered Meals** program provides approximately 3.3 million home-delivered meals to over 9,000 homebound older adults each year. Meals are provided for weekdays, and weekends and holidays if needed.
- DFSS offers a range of services to support 400 kinship families through its **Older Relatives Raising Children** program including services such as counseling, family mediation, support groups, respite services and case advocacy and support.
- DFSS' **Regional and Satellite Senior Centers** (6 Regional and 15 Satellite Senior Centers) will continue to receive more than 400,000 visits from Chicago seniors and their caregivers who are seeking a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. Each center is tailored to the needs and interests of the local community. All centers offer resources for caregivers, cultural activities, health and fitness programs, the Golden Diners meals program, and more.
- Seniors and their families can also receive information about **in-home services** that allow more than 33,000 seniors to live independently with support in their homes and communities.